United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400
Date: March 13, 2003

Mr. Tim Morgan
Ravenna Training & Logist Site
1438 SR534 SW
Newton Falls, OH 44444

Dear Mr. Morgan:

A new exotic beetle, the emerald ash borer (*Agriluis planipennis),* was found in 2002 killing ash (*Fraxinus* ssp.) trees in the Detroit, MI and Windsor, Canada areas. It has recently been found in the Toledo, OH area. The larvae of the emerald ash borer (EAB) feed in the phloem and outer sapwood creating galleries that eventually kill trees. This insect has already killed millions of ash in southeastern Michigan both in urban areas and in natural woodland settings. This exotic pest should be considered a very significant threat to the ash resource.

The potential for movement outside that area is great. The abundance of dead trees and subsequent tree cutting is creating an enormous amount of firewood. Movement of infested ash firewood could introduce EAB into previously unaffected areas. Therefore, any recreation area with visitors from southeastern Michigan or northwestern Ohio could be the unsuspecting host of a new EAB infestation.

Enclosed is a copy of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's News Release (Feb 28, 2003) and copies of our Emerald Ash Borer Pest Alert that describes the insect and the type of damage that it causes. We ask that you give this document wide distribution and encourage your staff to become familiar with the insect and associated damage. We especially would like to inform all recreation staff, including seasonal staff such as campground hosts, since we believe that heavily used recreation areas have a high probability of becoming infested. Additional information on EAB can be found on the internet at: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/eab/index.htm.

The emerald ash borer has the potential to become a major forest pest of ash in the eastern United States. However, through awareness and early detection the impact of any new infestations can be minimized. If you find dead or dying ash that you suspect may be infested with EAB, please call Brad Onken at (304) 285-1556, or bonken@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

Enclosures

Cc: Noel Schneeberger, AO
Tom Vorak
Bill Woodson